

HOUSE RESOLUTION 182

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor Billy Block for his contributions to the music industry of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pride in Tennessee's influential contribution to the music industry; and

WHEREAS, Billy Block is a giant of the Nashville music scene who helped many famous musicians get their start in the industry, including Keith Urban, Miranda Lambert, Kacey Musgraves, Ashley Monroe, Jason Aldean, Lady Antebellum, and Florida Georgia Line; and

WHEREAS, through *Western Beat Radio with Billy Block*, for which he was the first nationally syndicated Americana radio host, and *Western Beat* and *The Billy Block Show* television programs, Mr. Block played an influential role in raising the profile of Nashville's Americana and alternative country music; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Block's programs have showcased a host of amazing musicians such as Rodney Crowell, Jim Lauderdale, Buddy Miller, Elizabeth Cook, Allison Moorer, Chris Young, and Tim Carroll; and

WHEREAS, known for his outstanding musical productions, Billy Block produced hit programs at Disneyland in California and for Nissan's Annual Managers Meeting, which featured Brad Paisley; he was the music director and band leader of Goodyear's 100th Anniversary Celebration, and he has hosted and produced multiple stages at CMA FanFest and five seasons of music for Poolapalooza at the Opryland Hotel; and

WHEREAS, a talented musician, Billy Block performed as a member of the house band for A&E TV's *Nashville 4th of July Celebration* alongside the Nashville Symphony; and

WHEREAS, an influential talent and music consultant, Mr. Block brought top five contestants to all five seasons of NBC's *Nashville Star* and CMT's *Can You Duet* television

singing competitions; he was also instrumental in discovering *Kenny Chesney's Next Big Star* talent, Brother Trouble; and

WHEREAS, Billy Block is currently the drummer and promoter of the monthly Cajun Zydeco Dance Party and is involved in Folk Night at Two Old Hippies, the Providence Market Place Summer Concert Series, and HealthSpring's Silver Stars Talent Search for Seniors; and

WHEREAS, specializing in creating promotions and promoting creations, Billy Block uses his extensive knowledge of the music industry in his management and consulting work with Rocky Block, Cumberland Collective, Zodlounge, and Teen Hoot; and

WHEREAS, known for his positive attitude and enthusiasm, Keith Urban recalls Billy Block's "almost teenage enthusiasm, for playing drums and for supporting others"; and

WHEREAS, despite a diagnosis of stage IV melanoma, Billy Block maintains his love for life and an upbeat outlook; he describes his own perspective as "an every-day-is-a-gift attitude"; and

WHEREAS, Billy Block and his beloved wife, Jill, are the proud parents of Rocky Block, a musician and high school football player, and Grady Block, a drummer and hockey player; and

WHEREAS, Billy and Jill Block are making a difference in the lives of Michael Hughes and Chandon Mayes, teammates of Grady whom Mr. and Mrs. Block have taken into their home; and

WHEREAS, Billy Block is a man of profound compassion and has raised money and awareness in response to the tragic deaths of his good friends, Walter Hyatt and Buck Jones, and cared for musician Duane Jarvis in his final days; and

WHEREAS, Billy Block's principled character, kindness, and profound contribution to Tennessee's music industry should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Billy Block for his outstanding music career and reflect fondly on his integrity and strength of character.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.